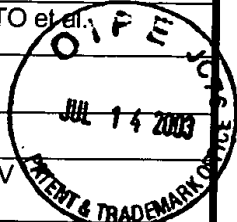


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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.
See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number	09/917,681
Filing Date	July 31, 2001
First Named Inventor	Dai SUGIMOTO et al.
Group Art Unit	2815
Examiner Name	J. Jackson
Attorney Docket Number	SON-1408/DIV



This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000) which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

- a. i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on _____
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
iii. ☐ Other _____
b. ☒ Enclosed
i. ☒ Amendment
ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
iv. ☐ Other _____

Miscellaneous

2. a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required.)
b. ☐ Other _____

Fees

3. The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.
a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 18-0013.
i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
iii. ☐ Other _____
b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ _____ enclosed
c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

RECEIVED

JUL 16 2003

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT IS REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Ronald P. Kananen	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	Reg. No. 24,104
Signature		Date: July 14, 2003	

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

Name (Print/Type)	07/15/2003 SLUANG1 00000065 180013 09917681
Signature	02 FC:1801 750.00 DA
	Date

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231.